Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:

This application is a U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/JP2003/000258 filed January 15, 2003.

Page 21, line 26 to page 22, line 16, please rewrite as follows:

Subsequent to gene amplification, the reaction mixture was treated with a phenol/chloroform (1:1) mixture. To the water-soluble fraction, ethanol was added in a volume twice that of the fraction, to thereby precipitate DNA. The DNA collected through precipitation was subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis as described in literature (Molecular Cloning, see above), to thereby purify DNA fragments having a size of 720 b. The DNA was cleaved with restriction enzymes *Nco*I and *Pst*I, followed by ligation, by use of T4 DNA ligase, with plasmid pTrc99A which had likewise been digested with restriction enzymes ~~*NcoH*~~ *Nco*I and *Pst*I. By use of the ligation reaction mixture, *E. coli* strain JM109 was transformed, and from the resultant ampicillin-resistant transformants, plasmid pTrcsiaBNP was isolated. pTrcsiaBNP has a structure in which a DNA fragment containing a structural gene of *neuA* gene of *H. influenzae* has been inserted to the *Nco*I-*Pst*I cleavage sites located downstream of the trc promoter of pTrc99A.

Page 28, line 25 to page 29, line 8, please rewrite as follows:

Amplification of the *neuB1* gene through PCR was performed in a DNA Thermal Cycler (product of Perkin-Elmer Cetus Instrument) by adding thereto a 100 μL reaction mixture containing 50mM potassium chloride, 10mM Tris HCl (pH 8.3), 1.5mM magnesium chloride, 0.001% gelatin, 0.1 μg template DNA, DNA primers ~~(A)~~ (I) and ~~(B)~~ (J) (each 0.2 μM), and AmpliTaq DNA polymerase (2.5 units). The cycling protocol consisted of 30 cycles of the following three steps: strand denaturation at 94°C for 1 minute, annealing at 55°C for 1.5 minutes, and polymerization at 72°C for 3 minutes.

Page 29, line 24 to page 30, line 8, please rewrite as follows:

Amplification of the *neuB1* gene through PCR was performed in a DNA Thermal Cycler (product of Perkin-Elmer Cetus Instrument) by adding thereto a 100 μL reaction mixture containing 50mM potassium chloride, 10mM Tris HCl (pH 8.3), 1.5mM magnesium chloride, 0.001% gelatin, 0.1 μg template DNA, DNA primers ~~(A)~~ (K) and ~~(B)~~ (L) (each 0.2 μM), and AmpliTaq DNA polymerase (2.5 units). The cycling protocol consisted of 25 cycles of the following three steps: strand denaturation at 94°C for 1 minute, annealing at 55°C for 1.5 minutes, and polymerization at 72°C for 3 minutes.